

Attorney's Docket 060258-0279295
Client Reference: 2980530US/PG/KP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
MARKKU VERKAMA

Confirmation Number: 9392

Application No.: 09/830,028

Group Art Unit: 2686

Filed: August 15, 2001

Examiner: Iqbal, Khawar

For: DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 25 2004

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Technology Center 2600

Transmitted herewith is an amendment/response for this application.

FEES

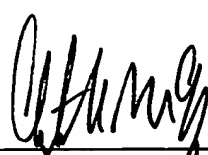
The fee for claims and extension of time (37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17) has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	-	=	x \$ 18.00	= \$
INDEP.	-	=	x \$ 86.00	= \$
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM			+ \$ 290.00	= \$ 0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE				\$
GRAND TOTAL				\$ 0.00

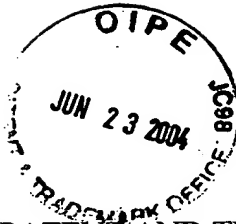
FEE PAYMENT

Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$0.00 to Deposit Account No. 033975. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Date: June 23, 2004
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of: VERKAMA Confirmation Number: 9392
Application No.: 09/830,028 Group Art Unit: 2686

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Title: DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2004, please reconsider the patentability of the rejected claims based on the following arguments.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mony (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,383), and rejected claims 3, 13, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mony in view of Valentine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,740; hereafter "Valentine").

Applicant traverses the prior art rejections because the cited prior art references, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims. For example, Mony, analyzed individually or in combination with Valentine, fails to disclose, teach or suggest a digital telecommunication system "wherein the first and second transcoder units each include speech codecs, the first centre is configured to perform handshaking with the second centre, the handshaking including indication of the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal, wherein at least one of the first and second centres is configured to choose the speech codec used by the calling and called terminals, and wherein at least one of the first and second centres is configured to establish call connections that bypass one or more of the transcoder units or to control the transcoder units to transmit encoded speech between the called and calling terminals without performing speech encoding operations so that speech is encoded and decoded only in the terminals," as recited in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-13 and 15-17.

Similarly, Mony, analyzed individually or in combination with Valentine, fails to disclose, teach or suggest a centre in a digital telecommunication network wherein the centre is configured to “perform handshaking with another centre associated with a called terminal, the handshaking including indication of speech codecs supported by the calling terminal associated with the centre, the centre also being configured to choose the speech codec used by the terminals, and the centre is configured to connect a call connection that bypasses the transcoder unit or to control the transcoder unit to transmit the encoded speech without performing speech encoding operations in such a way that speech encoding and decoding are only performed in the calling or called terminal,” as recited in independent claim 14.

Mony merely discloses a signaling method for avoiding multiple transcoder format conversions in a Mobile-to-Mobile Call (MMC) in a telecommunication system, wherein a terminal uses a single speech codec and a telecommunication network includes transcoders, which are connected for a speech connection by a centre in the telecommunication network. The centers are arranged to perform handshaking with each other, when required, to decide when transcoders are needed for a speech connection and when they are not needed, i.e., for MMCs, whereby a MMC is switched via bypass circuit. Mony also discloses a prior known method for arranging tandem-free operation in the IS-54 system, wherein the transcoders are always a part of the transmission path and transcoding is a default setting for the operation.

However, the Office Action erroneously misinterpreted Mony by assuming that any of the disclosed terminals use two speech codecs, VSELP (Vector Sum Excited Linear Prediction) and PCM (Pulse Code Modulation). However, PCM is not a speech codec used by the terminal; rather PCM is a modulation technique and a communication format used between centers. Hence, in Mony, the terminals only use one speech codec, i.e., VSELP.

Therefore, Mony fails to disclose, teach or suggest features of transcoder units including the use of a plurality of speech codecs, and the center of the calling terminal performing handshaking with the center of the called terminal, the handshaking including notification of the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal, to choose the speech codec used by the terminals. Furthermore, Mony represents a traditional tandem-free operation, wherein transcoders are always a part of the transmission path and transcoding is a default setting for the operation, which has to be separately switched off for a MMC. Therefore, the claimed invention would not have been obvious from the teachings of Mony because Mony teaches a conventional operations that are directly contrary to the claimed invention.

Valentine fails to remedy these deficiencies of Mony because Valentine merely discloses a method for adapting speech codec algorithms on a telecommunication connection including multiple different speech codecs. The originating network and the terminating network perform handshaking, which indicates the codecs used by the originating network/terminal and the terminating network/terminal. If the codes are different, the speech codec algorithms of both codecs are adapted to produce a best fit encoding matching. Consequently, Valentine also fails teach on the subject of choosing a speech codec for a tandem-free MMC.

Accordingly, no combination of the teachings of Mony and Valentine teaches or suggests a network arrangement, wherein there would exist a need for agreeing on the speech codec to be used in a tandem-free operation mode because both of those references include terminals that use only one speech codec. As a result, the combined teachings of Mony and Valentine fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1-17 are patentable over the cited prior art and allowable.

Based on the above-arguments, the pending claims are patentable and allowable. All rejections having been addressed, the Applicant requests issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of the pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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